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**San Diego Chapter**  
*Serving the Environment in San Diego and Imperial Counties*  
3820 Ray Street  
San Diego, CA 92104

July 11, 2006

Ms. Marsi Steirer  
Deputy Director, Water Policy and Strategic Planning  
City of San Diego Water Department  
600 B Street, Suite 600, MS 906  
San Diego, CA 92101-4506

Dear Ms. Steirer:

The San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club was a member of the stakeholders representing a broad cross section of our community that participated in the public outreach program through the American Assembly process conducted by the City Water Reuse Study team. This Study, requested by the San Diego City Council, is researching options to increase the use of recycled water in the City. At the conclusion of the Study, an impartial, balanced and comprehensive report will be provided to the City Council for input and potential policy direction.


The Sierra Club understands that the Study is analyzing several options to maximize the amount of recycled water that can be produced by the City's two water reclamation plants. Some options involve traditional uses of recycled water such as for landscape irrigation, outdoor construction, and industrial processing. Other options involve using advanced treatment technologies to produce highly treated recycled water to increase drinking water supplies by adding it to groundwater storage basins and water storage reservoirs.

Increasing the production and use of recycled water in the City will provide the following benefits (in part) to City residents and the San Diego area:

- Decrease and offset the amount of water that must be imported into the City from hundreds of miles away
- Help meet the water needs of population projections that indicate by 2030, the City could need 25 percent more water than it uses today
- Avoid drought restrictions on outdoor watering that could be mandated on imported water used for this purpose
- Enhance the environment by reducing treated wastewater discharges into the ocean and by using recycled water to enhance streams and wetlands

The Sierra Club was a signatory to the American Assembly Statement that was prepared at the final session of the Assembly in July 2005. Accordingly we strongly support the Water Reuse Study in its efforts to research and analyze all the possible options to increase the use of recycled water for the City of San Diego.

Sincerely,

  
Joe Zechman  
Chair, Executive Committee  
Sierra Club  
San Diego Chapter